September 7, 2025
23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Pastor: Fr. Henry Smolenaars
Fr. Henry Email: frhenrys@gmail.com
Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Wieslaw Papuga
Priest on Call: 902-746-8233 (Emergencies and Sacrament of the sick)
Office hours: Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
Church email : stambrosemail@gmail.com
Bulletin email: stambrosebulletin1@gmail.com
Tabitha Centre: 902-742-8960
Confession/Adoration Wednesday 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS – Sept.6th - 14th, 2025

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. **4 pm** Eric Warner
Sun. **9am** Stephen Sollows
Sun. **11:15 am Parishioners**
Tues. **6:30 pm** Irene Polson
Wed. **6:30 pm** Special Intentions
Thurs. **9 am** Dorothy Veronica Kent
Fri. **9 am** Clifford Muise
Sat. **4 pm Parishioners**
Sun. **9am** Sandy Saulnier
Sun. **11:15 am** Special Intentions

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sun. **10 am September 7** Edith LeBlanc
Sun. **10 am September 14** Elaine & Oscar Harris

REFLECTION: "Hating" So As To Love Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." Why would Jesus exhort the "great crowds" to hate their families? In fact, Jesus went even further than that. He said they must also hate their own lives. If they do not, then they cannot be His disciples. One thing that this shocking teaching did was to shake people out of their lukewarm faith. Sometimes we think of Jesus only as a kind and gentle soul Who always brightens people's days. We see images painted of the smiling Jesus Who always made people feel welcomed and loved. And though these images have truth, it is also true that one way He brightened their days was by challenging them to the core of their being to convert. And that is what Jesus does today in our Gospel. To hate your father, mother, children, siblings and even your very self is obviously not a reference to the sin of hate that flows from anger. In this case, the word "hate" refers to the best way to love others and to love even your own self. To begin, let's look at the conclusion. Jesus said that this form of hate is a requirement of being His disciple. This is the key. Unless we are first and foremost a disciple of Christ, we cannot love others and we will not even love ourselves in the proper way. "Hate" in this context refers to selfish attachments. This means that people and things can easily get in the way of our love of God. When they do, we must see them as an obstacle to both the love of God, as well as to the authentic love of others and even ourselves. For example, if a family member were to demand in some way that you love them more than you love God, then this must be rejected with passion. This could be referred to as holy hatred of the temptation, not the person. Say a spouse criticizes you for attending Mass and tries to stop you from doing so. If you listen to them, then you are placing them before God. Or say someone hurts you and you choose to forgive them, only to have a family member challenge you and try to stir up anger in you toward that person. If you listen to them, then you are not listening to God. In these cases, we must "hate" in the sense that we reject the temptation. What about yourself? How do you hate yourself? This is a reference to the many ways that our disordered appetites are drawn to sin. If we indulge in the disordered desires, or even worse, if we treat those disordered desires as normal and good for us, then we have chosen the disordered desire over God. In that case, we must learn to hate and reject the selfish and disordered desire, choosing God and His will alone. When we are able to choose the love of God first and foremost in our lives, rejecting the temptations that come through others and even the temptations within our disordered desires, then, and only then, are we in a position to love others and ourselves, in the right way. Jesus obviously wants us to love others and ourselves. But this is only possible when our love is pure and holy and flows from the love of God. Any other form of "love" is not love at all. It is a selfish attachment that hinders our true mission as lovers of God and instruments of that love to others. Reflect, today, upon the passion that you must have to reject all forms of sin. This includes sin that tempts you through the mediation of your family and friends. It also includes every form of temptation that arises within you on account of your disordered human nature. This holy hatred is an act of love in that it seeks to eliminate everything that keeps you from true love. Choose, today, to be a faithful disciple of Jesus and commit yourself to reject all that seeks to interfere with this choice. Doing so will not only increase your love for God, it will also increase your love for others, and even your love for your own soul. -My Catholic Life

WANT TO BECOME CATHOLIC? *Are you a non-Catholic interested in the Catholic faith? Are you thinking you might want to become Catholic? Are you a Catholic adult who never celebrated your 1st Communion and/or Confirmation?* Then RCIA is for you. RCIA will be starting this fall at St. Ambrose. If you are interested then please contact the office for a form you can fill out to sign up. Come and join us this fall!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: - Every soul purified through baptism and raised to the state of grace is thereby conceived through Christ and is born for his sake. -St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

FOOD BANK: this weekend of September 6th & 7th, is our turn to support the Yarmouth Food Bank. Non-perishable goods and monetary donations are appreciated. Members of the Knights of Columbus will be on hand before all the masses to receive the donations.

ULTREYA: Cursillo – 96th Women's – Oct 2 – 5, 2025 and 95th Men's – Nov 6 – 9, 2025 Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning "short course" in Christianity. It is a weekend that helps people to live as a Christian in normal everyday life and a desire to journey with Christ. Cursillo is not a retreat but an encounter with oneself, with Christ and with others. If you or someone you know might be interested in learning more, please contact either of the names: **Women's** – Agnes Robicheau, 902-746-9881 agnes.robicheau@yahoo.com **Men's** – Larry Richard, 902-746-4256 jsll@persona.ca

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly Meeting: Tuesday September 9th all members invited 5:30, executive meeting 6:30, supper meeting and 7:30 pm general meeting. A **4th Degree meeting** will be held on Tuesday September 16th at 7.00 pm; all 4th Degree Knights are encouraged to attend. There will be a rosary at 6:30 pm for all Sir Knights who are sick and in hospitals. **Community breakfasts** will start again on September 28 from 9:00 am until 11:30 at the Columbus Hall. The cost is $10.00 for adults and $7.00 for 12 and under.

PAROISSE NOTRE-DAME DE L'ASSOPMTION-Parish secretary: The parish is looking for a part-time secretary. 9a.m. to 2p.m. Tuesday to Friday. Duties include – typing and printing church bulletins, managing mass schedules and coordinating priest schedules, answering phones, checking emails and relaying messages to the appropriate staff member, printing baptismal and marriage certificates, keeping parish registers up to date, ordering candles, church envelopes, hosts, wine and other necessary supplies, keeping in contact with all committee members and attending monthly Pastoral committee meetings. Proficiency in the French language is required. To apply please send your resume to nda@eastlink.ca or call 902-648-2315.

COFFEE SOCIALS: are being held after all the masses the weekend of September 21st. Come join us for a cup.

CATECHISM REGISTRATION AND CLASSES: We will have registration and classes for grades primary to eight begin next month. The start date is to be determined and will be announced as soon as possible.